

EDUCATION  
RESOURCE PACK:  
THE STORM  
WHALE



# About...

## The Education Pack

As part of our work at Little Angel Theatre, we are excited to expand the experience of watching our stage adaptation of Benji Davies wonderful book 'The Storm Whale' for you with ideas for exploring the themes in your classroom. In this pack we will explore creative writing, loneliness and the creation of your very own Storm Whale.

This pack also contains plenty of whale facts!

## The Storm Whale

Noi lives with his Dad and their six cats by the sea. One spring, while his Dad was busy at work, Noi rescued a little whale that washed up on the beach during a storm. There a friendship began that changed their lives forever.

The following winter, Noi's Dad takes one last trip in his fishing boat. Noi is alone once more and longs to see his friend again. He waits and watches, watches and waits,, will it take another winter storm to bring them back together again?

Benji Davies' tender and heart-warming children's stories of friendship, love and courage are brought to life as one enchanting theatre show. Little Angel Theatre has a reputation for bringing much loved children's books to life using puppetry and the beautiful images created by award winning Benji Davies spring to life in this production!



# About Little Angel Theatre

Little Angel Theatre, nestled in Islington, London, is a renowned puppet theatre dedicated to captivating young audiences through imaginative performances. Established in 1961 by John and Lyndie Wright, the theatre has evolved into a vibrant hub for puppetry, offering a diverse range of productions, workshops, and educational resources.

The theatre's commitment to education is evident in its comprehensive offerings for schools. Through the Schools Partnership Programme, Little Angel Theatre provides digital and live performances, along with a wealth of online resources, including puppet-making guides and curriculum-linked activities. These resources support cross-curricular learning in subjects such as English, Science, Art, and PSHE.

For educators seeking to integrate puppetry into their teaching, the theatre offers professional development opportunities. Workshops cover various aspects of puppetry, from shadow puppets to table-top puppets, equipping teachers with practical skills to enhance classroom engagement.

Little Angel Theatre's dedication to fostering creativity and imagination makes it an invaluable resource for educators aiming to enrich their students' learning experiences through the art of puppetry.



Image description: A black and white photo of the founders of Little Angel Theatre, John and Lyndie Wright. They are each holding a puppet outside of the Little Angel Theatre in Dagmar Passage



# Fun Facts About Whales

Did you know...

The whale in Storm Whale is quite small... small enough to fit in the bath tub! The smallest type of whale is the dwarf sperm whale, which at full size can reach up to 2.7 metres, weighing around 272 kg! At the other end of the scale is the blue whale. These whales grow up to 30 metres and weigh a whopping 190,000 kg That's 699x the size of a dwarf sperm whale!



The mouth of a baleen whale!

There are two main types of whales; baleen and toothed whales. Toothed whales (as their name suggests) are whales with teeth. There are 73 different species including orca, narwhal and beluga whales. Baleen whales do not have teeth, but instead have a plate of keratin, the same protein found in hair! This helps baleen whales to filter krill and plankton to eat. Baleen whales are often larger, but have less species than toothed whales. Only 14-15 species total!

Like Noi in 'The Storm Whale', whales can also become lonely! Whales communicate with each other under the sea through a variety of clicks and whistles. This way of communicating is unique to different groups of whales ('Pods'), meaning whales have accents, just like humans! In 1989, scientist named the worlds 'Loneliest Whale', a whale that communicates at 52Hz (significantly higher than both fin whales and blue whales) but never heard replies. The Lonliest whale has never been seen by humans.

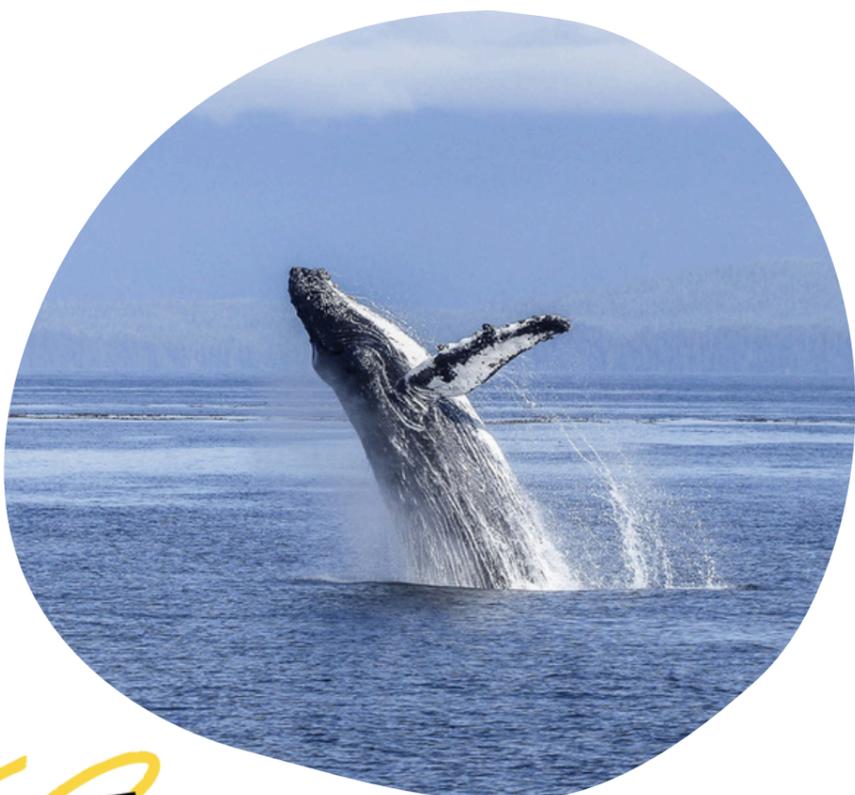


# Whale Gallery



**This is a beluga whale! Beluga whales have a squishy head because of something called the melon, which is a fat filled structure on its forehead. The melon is used primarily for echolocation, helping beluga whales to hunt in the dark using sound!**

**Blue whales are the worlds largest mammal. Their hearts are so big, that a human could swim through their arteries!**



**When whales come out of the water, this is known as 'cresting'. This is another form of communication among whales, showing play or danger.**







# Writing and Literacy

## Activity #3

**Topic:** Creating a new story, story structure.

**Activity:** Write a new storyboard about an adventure that Noi, his Dad, and Flo go on with the Storm Whale. What other mischief does Noi get into?



# Exploring different kinds of weather

**Activity:** For each kind of weather listed, draw what the conditions would look like on Noi's island by the sea. Then use the space provided to describe your picture. What would he be wearing outside? What would the sea look like? What does the air feel like?

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**Sunny**

**Snowy**

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**Rainy**



# Music and Art

## Activity #1

**Topic:** Creating a soundscape, collaboration

**Activity:** As a part of a group (or independently) Create your own soundscape of the ocean at different parts of the day. Use objects or instruments or even your own body to make the sounds of the ocean. What might the ocean sound like at night? During a storm?

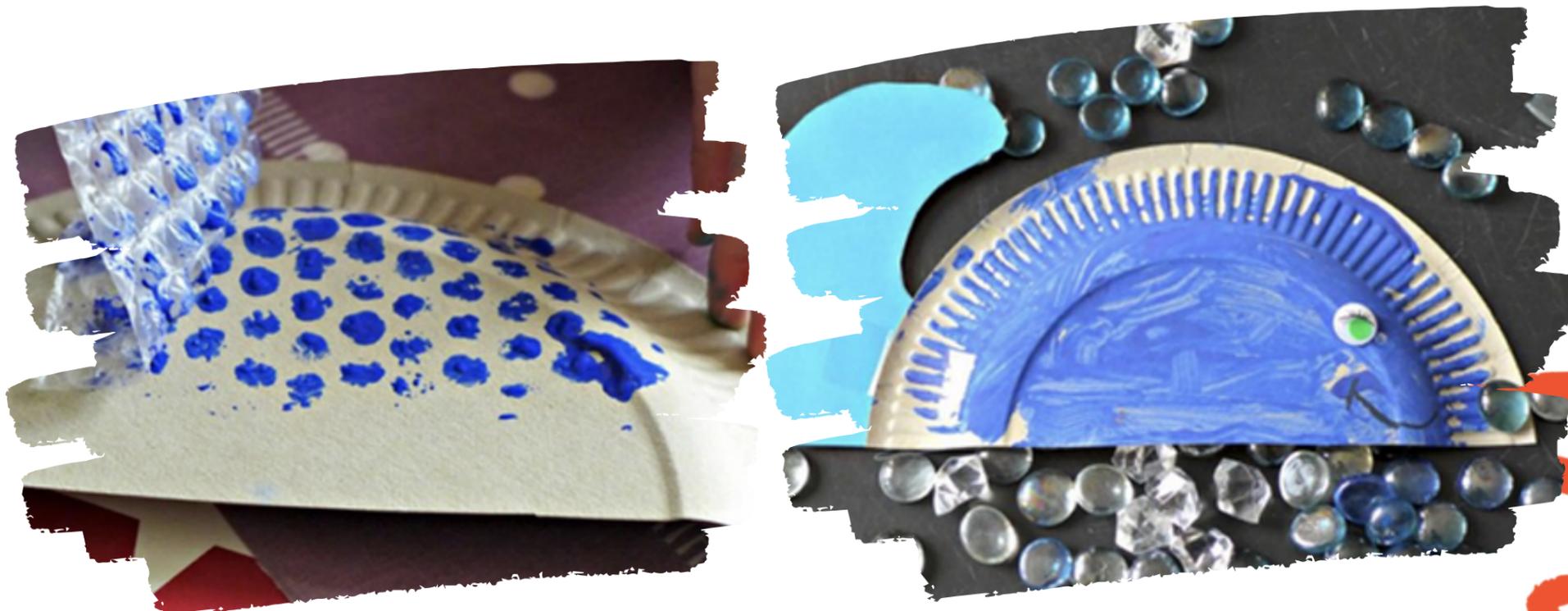
## Activity #2

**Topic:** Arts and Craft - Make a Paper Plate Whale Puppet

**Resources:** Paper plates, coloured cardstock, paint and other decorations, scissors, glue, googly eyes, tape, lolly sticks

### Instructions:

Cut the plates in half to create your whale body Use paint or other materials, like bubblewrap, to create a pattern on the whale body After the whales dry, draw a stencil of a whale tail on card and cut them out. Attach the tail to the body and add googly eyes and any other decorations to make your friend unique! Add a popsicle stick to the body to make your whale into a puppet - and create your own Storm Whale story!



Craft idea and pictures credited to Sara Burns, Let them Be Small,  
<https://letthembesmall.com/paper-plate-whales/>



# Music and Art

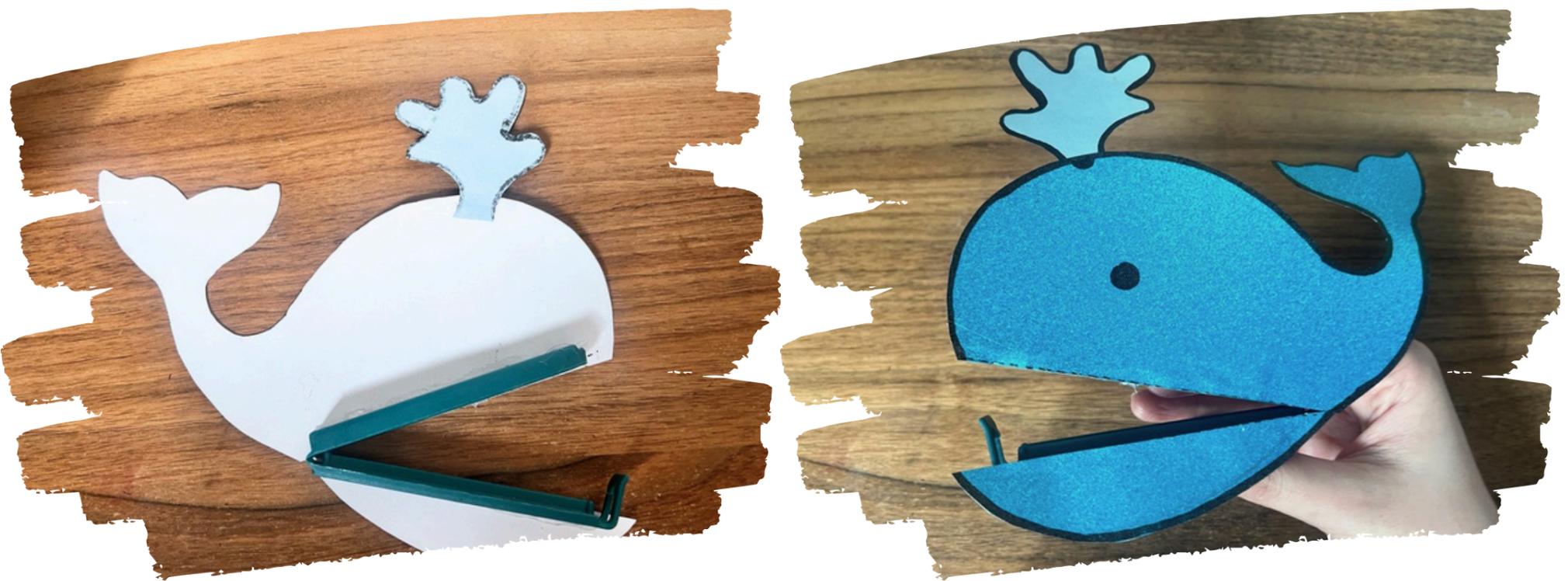
## Activity #3

**Topic:** Arts and Craft - Moving Mouth Whale Puppet

**Resources:** Coloured card or paper, sandwich clip, pens, scissors, glue

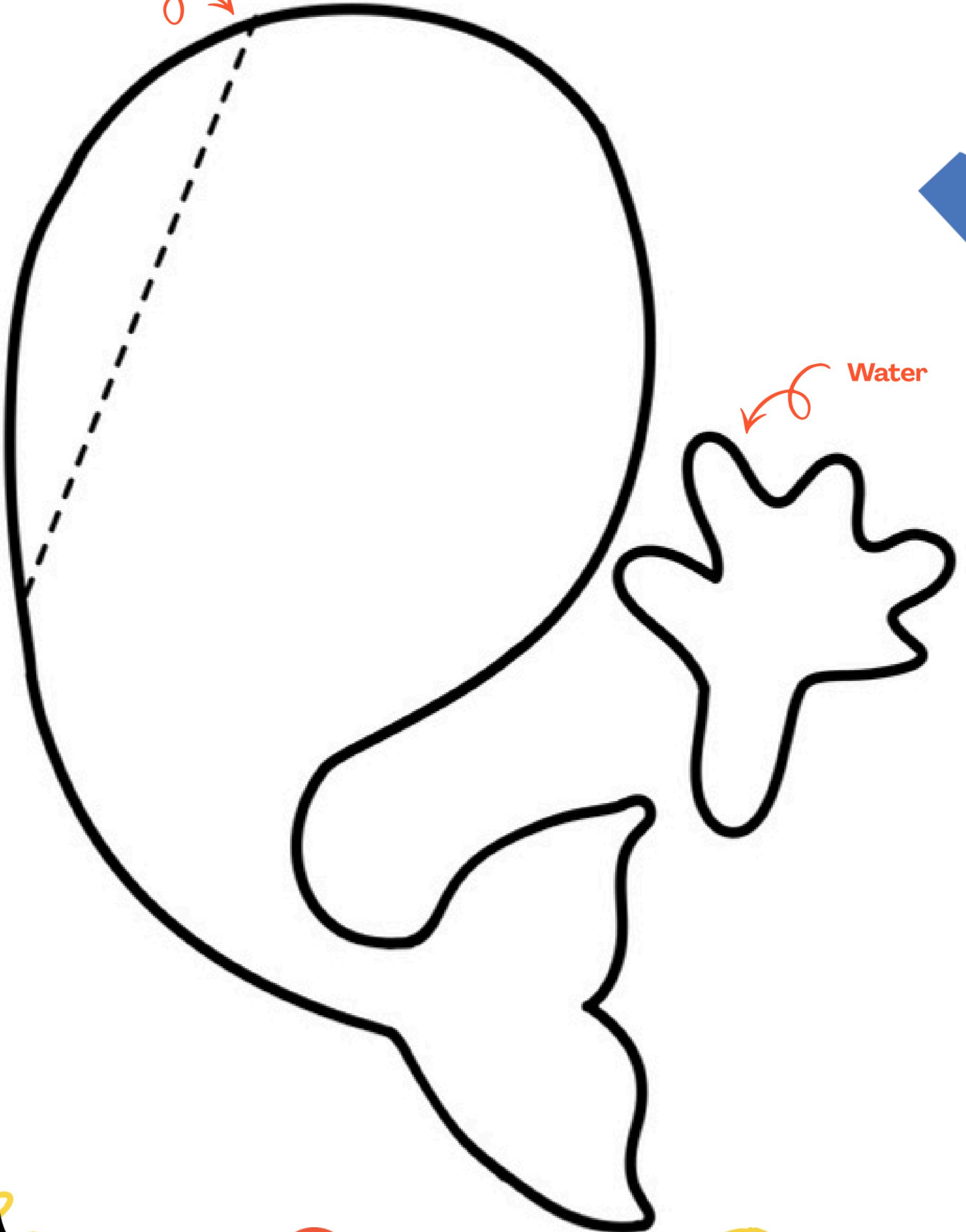
**Instructions:**

1. Cut out the template and trace it on to your coloured paper
2. Cut your whale out. cutting along the dotted line for the jaw
3. Turn your whale over and glue your clip along each edge of the jaw
4. Decorate using pens, giving your whale an eye and a blowhole
5. Cut out the water template and glue it on
6. Create your own puppet show!



# Template

Whale



Water



# PSHE: Discussions about Loneliness

## Unpacking the feeling of loneliness

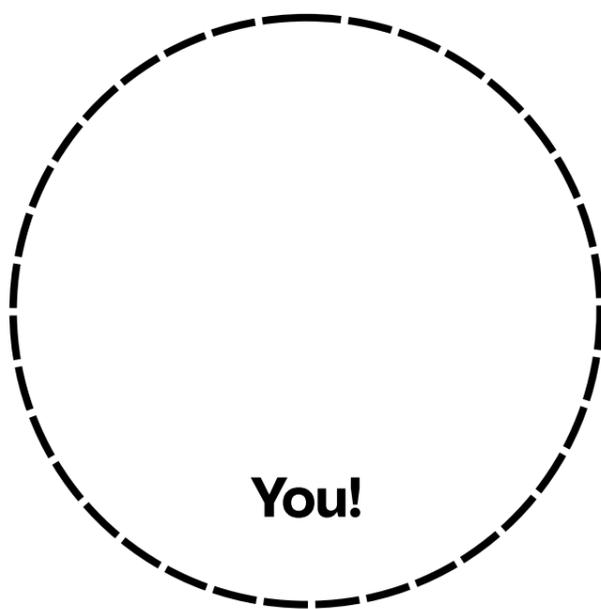
**Objective:** Pupils will be able to identify loneliness and explore the emotion, reflect on the importance of meaningful connections and ways to cope with loneliness.

### Group discussion:

- What other words or things do you associate with the word?
- Is loneliness the same as being on your own or being bored?
- What are the differences between these feelings?
- Why might people feel lonely?

### Web of connections:

In the 'Storm Whale' Noi feels lonely, but then they became friends with the Storm Whale. Noi lives with their Dad and cats! In the circle below, draw a mini self-portrait. Then, surround yourself with the people who you feel safe with or connect to



# PSHE: Discussions about Loneliness

## Meaningful Connections

As a group, discuss the phrase “meaningful connection”. Who do you think is your most meaningful connection? Who helps the most when you are feeling lonely?

Can you describe them in three words?



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Draw a picture of them below and surround them with things they do to help when you are feeling lonely

A large yellow scalloped border for drawing.

# Coping with loneliness

What could you do when you feel lonely?

Maybe you could:

- Write a letter to someone you miss
- Read a book that brings you joy
- Talk to a trusted adult

Is there any other things you could do when you are feeling lonely? Think about 'The Storm Whale'. What did Noi do when they felt lonely?

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# Useful Resources and Links

Little Angel Website:

<https://littleangeltheatre.com>

<https://www.littleangeltheatre.com/for-schools/>

Workshops, shows on tour and digitally and our National School Partnership

## Teaching loneliness resources:

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-involved/teaching-resources/tackling-loneliness>

## Other books that explore the theme of loneliness:

- When I'm Feeling Lonely - By Trace Moroney. Board book for younger children.
- The Little Beaver and the Echo - By Amy MacDonald. A gentle introduction to feeling lonely and finding friends.
- The Invisible Boy - By Trudy Ludwig. A quiet boy feels lonely and unseen at school.
- The Lonely Beast - By Chris Judge. Award winning picture book
- The Lonely Little Cactus - By Susie Davies-Splitter and Tanya Bretherton. Colourful picture book.

## Based on the books *The Storm Whale* and *The Storm Whale in Winter* by Benji Davies

Written and directed by **Matt Aston**

Set & Puppets Designed by **Lydia Denno**

Lighting designed by **Jason Salvin**

Composer / Musical Direction by **Julian Butler**

Choreographed by Hayley **Del Harrison**

Puppet direction by **Sue Dacre**

Puppets made by **Keith Frederick**

